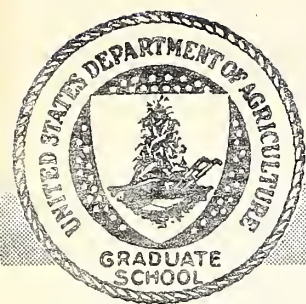


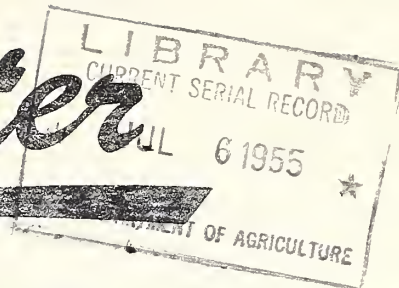
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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

June 29, 1955

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

One disadvantage--perhaps the only important one--in being a blazer of new trails is that you do not have opportunities to exchange views and learn from the experience of others.

During the 34 years the Graduate School has been in existence, I am sure there have been many times when the officials in charge would have found it most helpful to discuss mutual problems with leaders of like institutions in other parts of the country. But since the Graduate School was unusual, unique in many ways, there was no organization to provide a common meeting ground.

Fortunately times have changed. After-hours courses for employees in various fields are now a well-established part of the American educational system. The growth of knowledge and the recognition that life in our complex, technical society requires continued training mean that institutions like the Graduate School will play an increasingly important role in education in the future.

And now the National University Extension Service has provided the meeting ground for these discussions. At the annual meeting in May, the Association established a Division of Evening Colleges and Class Extension.

This will provide an organization for the mutual assistance of member institutions and help in developing a program of leadership, in conducting research leading to the improvement in or better understanding of programs, standards, teaching methods and other elements of evening colleges and class extension activities, and coordinate the activities of this Division with others in the NUEA.

We believe the Graduate School will profit from this new opportunity to join in discussions and research on these common problems.

On the last Wednesday night of the spring semester, some 20 students who had engaged in unusually lively discussions during the school year agreed that while the term was coming to a close, the course was not over. It will be ended only by desertion or death.

This is by way of saying they had formed the habit of studying the perennial problems of mankind in great books.

The students were members of the course, Great Books I, taught by Miss Clare Ruppert. And she tells us she feels sure many of them will continue to read, talk, listen, and think about the ideas they have examined this year in reading that included the Gospel of St. John, Dante's Divine Comedy, Machiavelli's The Prince, Shakespeare's Hamlet and King Lear, Goethe's Faust, the Communist Manifesto by Marx, The Theory of the Leisure Class by Veblen, and The Education of Henry Adams.

One reason this year's discussions were vigorous is that the class brought together people with diverse interests and points of view. Among them were economists, journalists, mathematicians. The group also included Congressional secretaries, a Latin teacher, two GI's, and two people in private industry.

There was also a husband and wife team--the Don Paarlbergs. Although his duties as assistant to Secretary Benson often involved travel or meetings that conflicted with the class, Mr. Paarlberg was able to attend many sessions, read most of the books, and he tells us he found the discussions highly stimulating.

This course is one in which 30,000 people across the country are taking part each year to study the books that make up our great heritage of thought. Only qualifications for the course are an interest in ideas and a belief in free discussion.

Unlike the usual college, the Graduate School has no placement division. Even so, Registrar Louise Sullivan gets many calls from Federal placement officers for the names of students who have made good records in courses related to specific areas of work. The fact that all of our records are now kept on IBM cards makes possible for Miss Sullivan to supply names in a short time. In the past few months these have included the names of students who could qualify and might be interested in jobs in records unit supervision, cartography, and report writing. Calls for trained people often show the need of courses not being given in metropolitan Washington and influence our decision in going into new lines of work.

Bookstore Manager Vera Jensen took a note from college bookstores the country over and staged a sale at the end of the spring semester. She reports the first bargains to be sold out were the drafting materials. There was also a brisk demand for books on public administration, mathematics and statistics, economics, and speech. And once the word got around to interested people, there was a steady sale of language books.

Miss Jensen has no explanation for the fact that an older edition of Locklin's "Economics of Transportation" was quickly exhausted when the price was reduced from \$5.50 to \$1. While a markdown on Groves' "Financing Government" failed to move a single book.

The open display tempted someone to take a book without paying for it. It is "Introduction to American Government" by Ogg and Ray.

In raising tuition fees this coming year, the Graduate School is in line with many other schools. We note in a recent issue of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL that annual tuition and fees for undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania will rise \$150 next fall. Texas state colleges may double tuition--from \$25 to \$50 a semester. Massachusetts Institute of Technology will boost annual tuition from \$900 to \$1,100 effective the 1956-57 term.

Did you read

An article in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL recently about the new business administration college which General Electric is building in Crotonville, N. Y., to train some 300 G. E. executives each year in advanced managerial techniques?

According to this account, G. E. President Ralph J. Cordiner thinks, "Not customers, not products, not money, but managers may be the limit on General Electric's growth".

And the article goes on to say that G. E.'s action points up the growing interest among corporations in developing executives qualified to cope with the complexities of running modern business and industry.

The General Electric Management Research and Development Institute will be located on 27 rolling acres overlooking the Hudson, 35 miles north of New York. It will have its own permanent faculty hand-picked from the economic world, including a dean and staff of a dozen or more professors and instructors.

G. E.'s decision to start its own managerial school is its belief that managing a business enterprise is a distinct professional activity which can be taught and learned. "This means its principles can be increasingly discovered, stated, verified, and taught systematically," according to Harold F. Smiddy, vice president in charge of G. E.'s management consultation services. "They can be learned and they can be applied."

* * *

"Why John Can't Read," a condensation of Rudolf Flesch's new book in THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR. The feature on Dr. Flesch notes that in 1945 Dr. Flesch taught a class in the Graduate School on "Readable Writing and Simplification."

Many of the ideas on the role of the universities and higher education that we heard discussed at faculty luncheons this year are considered in an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE for June 5, 1955. Kenneth Lindsay, the author, is an Englishman who served for 17 years as Independent Member of the House of Commons representing English Universities. He is now a visiting lecturer in this country. Some quotes of interest:

"There is a very strong case for using the university as a lighthouse of learning for the region around it, even if only through part-time studies and influences. We need to dramatize the ideals of positive freedom and spiritual unity among the students and to extend these ideals as far as possible through the masses of the people."

"The United States is the only country in the world that is trying to educate a whole people. The fact that thousands of Americans are aware of the problems involved in their educational effort is a sign of vitality."

"Universities should have wider aims and a sense of practical needs: their graduates should go into life not so much experts in the battle cries and tactics of the moment, but as men and women who are conscious of the deeper issues, the values involved. British, American and European universities have much to learn from one another."

GS lost a beloved faculty member in the death of Charles M. Richards on May 29. He joined the faculty in 1946 to offer two courses, Survey of Art and Modern Painting which were two of our most popular courses. Mr. Richards was curator at the National Gallery of Art.

AMONG OURSELVES

Miss Louise Sullivan, Registrar of the Graduate School, was married to Lawrence Earhart Malone in Washington, June 25. A native of Dayton, Ohio and a graduate of Miami University, Mr. Malone is district representative of Georg Jensen of New York. After a wedding trip to Europe, Mr and Mrs. Malone will live at 5741 Colorado Ave., N.W.

New president of the University of New Hampshire is a former director of the Graduate School--Eldon Johnson.

Among USDA employees selected for awards at the Honors Day celebration recently were five of our associates in Graduate School affairs: Byron T. Shaw and Lester Schlup, recipients of distinguished service awards, and C. O. Henderson, David Hall, and Frank Teuton, who received superior service awards.

A new assignment is taking Earl Sharar to New Orleans to live. Beginning July 1, he will be in charge of the regional business office there for the Agricultural Research Service. Mark Kirkham is taking over his class in supervision.

Dr. Carl C. Taylor who has been associated with the Graduate School as a faculty member and committeeman since 1937 spent last year in India. He returned recently to the United States and retired from his position in Government to accept a position in India with the Ford Foundation.

Sincerely,


T. Roy Reid
Director